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Senator Defends CIA-Student Links

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Special to Newsday

Washington—Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.) said last night that CIA-sponsored student activities have been extremely successful over the years and that secrecy was essential to their success.

Jackson, a member of a branch of the Senate Armed Services Committee that deals directly with operations of the Central Intelligence Agency, said the CIA student aid programs "had a devastating effect on the Communist youth movement." He said student missions from the U.S., operating with CIA funds, had been instrumental in countering Communist influence at several international youth conferences.

". . . The aid went to those foundations and groups that, in general, help to properly portray American foreign policy and American position in national security matters abroad," the senator said during the Metromedia television program, "Opinion in the Capital." Jackson was commenting on recent disclosures that the CIA had financed several private groups, including the National Student Association.

Former Sen. Barry Goldwater, meanwhile, said he was disturbed because "all this (CIA) money went to left-wing organizations." Appearing on the CBS-TV program, "Face the Nation," the 1964 Republican presidential candidate said the CIA was financing "socialism in America" by aiding the international activities of liberal groups. Goldwater said he approved of such subsidies, but he suggested that some of the money should have gone to Republican youth groups and conservative organizations.

Jackson, however, said that anti-Communist activities abroad would not have been successful without the help of "some of the more liberal, and even leftish, groups." Secrecy was necessary, especially in the early 1950s, he said; because open U.S. support of liberal groups would have been viewed suspiciously by the public in the intensely anti-Communist atmosphere created by the late Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy (R-Wis.).

U.S. student missions financed by the CIA had a "devastating effect on the Communist youth movement," Jackson said. "The international conference that they held in Vienna just blew up, and the one in Helsinki was a disaster and my recollection is that they have not held a conference since."

Although Jackson said last night that no strings were attached to the aid programs, a former officer of the National Student Association charged yesterday that CIA agents threatened an association officer to keep him silent. Michael Wood, the former NSA fund-raiser who originally revealed the CIA subsidy, said the CIA threatened to send a phony psychiatric record to potential employers of an unnamed NSA officer if the officer did not keep silent. NSA President Eugene Groves said he was unaware of the threat. Both spoke on ABC's "Issues and Answers" television program.

Three Long Island legislators also offered opinions in the CIA controversy yesterday. Rep. James R. Grover (R-Babylon) said he would not support a congressional investigation of CIA funding programs. He said the agency was acting within its mandate by fighting communism abroad and Communist-front groups at home. Debating Grover on WCBS-TV's "Legislative Hearing," Rep. Lester Wolff (D-Kensington) said he would favor an investigation, because the CIA was becoming what he called "thought police." Reached by phone last night, Rep. Herbert Tenzer (D-Lawrence) said he favored government sponsorship of student exchanges with friendly nations.

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